

16 July 2020

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Dear Parent or Carer

**Important update regarding Coronavirus (COVID-19)**

I hope that you are continuing to keep well and safe during this difficult time; please share the content of this letter with your child so you are able to discuss this as a family and keep up to date with everything.

I know that over the last few months you have received lots of information from us to help you and your son transition to DHSB for September, please ensure that you have engaged with all of the communication so far.

There is a new students page on our website where you will find links to information about the following:-

Information about transition from Mrs Edwards, Deputy Head, and Ms Walker, Transition Coordinator  
Chromebooks for learning  
School uniform  
DHSB buses

[Link to new students webpage](#)

I have also recorded a short welcome message to new students, parents and carers that you can view here.

[Link to video message](#)

**September 2020 plans**

It is our plan that all students in all year groups will return to DHSB full time from the beginning of the autumn term, with the exception being if there is a local lockdown being enforced by the government.

We have followed the current national guidance in devising our plans to enable our students and staff to return to school.

[Link to national guidance](#)

DHSB's detailed guidance of every area of school can be found at the link below.. As new parents at DHSB there is a lot of information here but the most important and relevant items for you have been shared with you through the communication with our Deputy Headteacher Mrs Edwards and our Transition Coordinator Ms Walker.

[Link to DHSB guidance for September 2020](#)

Here is a short summary of the guidance.

One of the control strategies in place to reduce the risk will be to minimise the number of contacts that students and staff have within the school day. Therefore, student groups will exist within year group bubbles and we will minimise any contact that they have as a whole school. This way we are able to give students the full broad and balanced curriculum offer with all of the specialist subjects.

Students and staff already arrive in a naturally staggered way in the mornings spread throughout all the main entrances. On arrival all must wash their hands before then going directly to their form room for registration.

Staggered timings will reduce any contact between year groups and also maintain and manage a reduced concentration of student numbers in the community areas such as toilets, social spaces and Refuel. We will operate the normal planned timetabled lessons but different timings for (Year 7,9,11,12 and 13) and (Year 8 and 10).

Students and staff moving around the site will use a one-way system to enable all to maintain social distancing and reduced contact. Students and staff will wash their hands on entering the buildings and regularly sanitise their hands as they leave a classroom and enter a classroom as part of their normal routine.

In classrooms - When students enter a classroom and on exit they must sanitise their hands. When students are in classrooms they must practice good respiratory hygiene – catch it, bin it, kill it.

We will slightly stagger the leaving times to reduce a concentration of numbers and to reduce overall contact. Students will also be designated a specific exit point of the school where they can safely leave. There are limitations to this to ensure that students don't miss their designated transport.

## **Risk Assessment**

Please see a summary of the risks and control measures that have been devised as part of our risk assessment. The risk assessment has been completed by staff, the designated trade unions, the local authority and the governing body following the current government guidance. The final sign off will be in August 2020 prior to reopening in September, if you have any feedback about this then please ensure you send this to us via [headteacher@dhsb.org](mailto:headteacher@dhsb.org) by 31 July 2020.

The final version will be published on the website in September 2020.

[Link to staying safe summary](#)

## **Arrangements for the start of the year**

Ms Walker has provided you with detailed information on the arrangements for the start of year specifically for our new Year 7 students in an induction guide, and in this letter we have also provided a summary of what your child should do when arriving at school on the first two days.

[Link to Year 7 induction guide](#)

## **Monday 7 September 2020**

Students should arrive by 8:55am and enter the school site via the main gate (at the top of the hill by the zebra crossing). A member of staff will direct students to the Year 7 playground where form groups will assemble.

Parents, please do not come on to the school site with your son at the start of the day or at the end of the day and do not gather by the gate at the end of the day. We need to leave a clear area for students to leave the site and to socially distance from one another. Please arrange a suitable collection/meeting point with your son beforehand.

## **Tuesday 8 September 2020**

From Tuesday 8 September onwards when students arrive in school they should wash their hands and go straight to their form room. There will be no outdoor play or congregation in social areas.

### **Whole school assembly**

Finally, we will be sharing our end of year messages to students and our community in our final virtual whole school assembly on Friday. This will be available to view in the Head's Blog which also has information each week on what is happening with our school and community.

<http://www.dhsb.org/heads-blog/>

If you have any concerns or questions please don't hesitate to contact us at [headteacher@dhsb.org](mailto:headteacher@dhsb.org).

We hope that you all stay safe and enjoy a good break over the holidays.

Yours faithfully



Dan Roberts  
Headteacher

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### **Important reminders and links**

#### **Wellbeing and support**

For a full list of all the support available to students and families please see our [FAQ webpage](#) and our [SEND webpage](#).

### **Do you have a question or something that you are unsure about?**

Please remember you can visit our new website, we are continually updating our [FAQ webpage](#) to publish questions and answers when we are contacted by students and their families.

### **Department for Education Coronavirus helpline**

The Department for Education coronavirus helpline is available to answer questions about COVID-19 relating to education and children's social care.

Staff, parents and young people can contact this helpline as follows:

Phone: 0800 046 8687

Opening hours:

8am to 6pm – Monday to Friday

10am to 4pm – Saturday and Sunday